

## Riding Performance: Equestrian

**Category Rules:** The category is administered through the mail and entries should be sent to the Middle Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences. Since this category is administered as a mail-in category, entries in the *Riding Performance: Equestrian* category are **not** eligible for participation in a principality or regional A & S Faire. The deadline for all of the mail-in categories is announced in the Middle Kingdom newsletter, *The Pale* by the Middle Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences. An entry must include four typed or clearly handwritten (no calligraphy, please) copies of the documentation on which the entrant's name **does not appear**, four disposable video tapes of the performance, a completed Entry Registration Form and the standard entry fee per entry. Modern video tapes are permitted in this category. The entrant is on her/his honor to produce the video as if s/he were actually riding at an A & S Faire. The category includes all period forms of equestrian riding as a performing art, including but not limited to period dressage movements, military maneuvers, spectacles and circus riding. Elements such as costumes, barding, and music should be included as appropriate, but will only be judged as part of Scope. Documentation should include a discussion of theme, situation and the integration of all elements supporting them. Some period riding equipment and techniques range into the unacceptable and cruel. Knowledge of, rather than practice of these, should be stressed. Acceptable substitutions for cruel period practices and equipment, as well as the use of safety equipment, is acceptable and **will not** count against the entry, however, these substitutions and safety equipment should be discussed in the documentation. All safety rules as delineated in the Middle Kingdom Marshall's Handbook in the Equestrian Section apply to an A & S Faire entry. There will be **no** deduction of points for the use of appropriate safety equipment. Any entry that exhibits danger to the rider or cruelty to the animal will be immediately disqualified.

### Documentation (0 to 4 points):

- 0: No documentation provided with entry.
- 1: Minimal information consisting of time, place and style.
- 2: As in #1, plus use of general sources; reliance on tertiary sources with perhaps one secondary source (ex: use of encyclopedia articles with a possible additional use of a book or article that refers to a period source.).
- 3: As in #2, plus a developed discussion making use of critical references; sources are largely secondary (ex: sources refer to period references; documentation discusses, compares, and contrasts the source's views).
- 4: As in #3, plus explanation of original research/experiment and relation of source material to it. Primary sources, if available, are emphasized (ex: sources used are from the appropriate period for the entry, such as period manuscripts, paintings or artifacts).

### Methods and Materials (0 to 4 points):

- 0: Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices (ex: completely modern ride with modern tack, no attempt to create a period feel).
- 1: Use of modern materials and methods to produce a performance that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful within SCA Culture (ex: use of modern tack and/or modern riding styles or combination of modern elements).
- 2: Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks, feels or sounds authentic to the time period it purports to be (ex: a ride using modern riding styles in authentic dress and tack).
- 3: Use of **either** modern materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks, feels or sounds authentic.
- 4: Use of totally authentic materials and methods (ex. riding style, arrangement/choreography, handling, tack, costume, etc. ride is presented as it would have been in the period and situation it purports to be).

**Scope** (0 to 6 points): Rank the ambition, **not** the success, of the entry on a scale of 0 to 6 points for **each** of the following elements and average for the total Scope score (Total of element scores divided by 4).

- Variety of riding skills exhibited.
- Level of difficulty of skills exhibited.
- Use of "extras" (extent to which the entrant attempts to create a period piece; use of special tack, costume, etc.).
- Ambition of performance.

**Skill** (0 to 6 points): How well is the performance done? Rank the success of the entry on a scale of 0 to 6 points for **each** of the following elements and average for the total Skill score (Total of element scores divided by 3).

- Execution of individual skills.
- Continuity of the riding performance.
- Equitation/skill of the entrant at the riding style attempted.

**Creativity** (0 to 4 points):

- 0: No originality, a completely stale performance.
- 1: Minor variations of other performances or a series of standard riding skills strung together.
- 2: More variation of riding skills, some development of personal or contextual elements.
- 3: An interesting riding performance appropriate to period and situation it purports to be.
- 4: Innovative combinations forming an unusual and very interesting ride. Performance is personal and incorporates well-developed contextual elements in a logical and appropriate manner.

**Judge's Observations** (0 to 6 points): Rank the performance as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the Criteria where the judge may allow her/his personality, private opinions and personal preferences to influence scoring.

*Contributors:* Beowulf Gordon, Isabeau Pferdebandiger, Kassandra Tenebrosa & Kobayakawa Ariake, 1994; Isabeau Pferdebandiger, Kassandra Tenebrosa & William of Fairhaven 1997.

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